



FEDERAL RESOURCES FOR NEW MEXICO'S SMALL BUSINESSES AND ENTREPRENEURS

INTRODUCTION



I was raised by mom-and-pop entrepreneurs. Some of my first jobs were digging trenches and installing sprinkler systems as part of my family's small landscaping business. I know firsthand how hard it is to start a small business and keep it running—even as small businesses are the backbone of our economy and employ over half of New Mexicans. Every day, I hear from our small business owners about the challenges in finding accessible financing, recruiting and retaining workers, and understanding the resources available to help.

That's why I am focused on bringing federal resources home to help our small businesses and help our entrepreneurs find the assistance federal agencies can provide. Below, you can find a non-exhaustive list of the support offered by various federal agencies for workforce development and training, financing, and technical assistance. If you have any questions, my office is here to help! Please feel free to contact us at (505) 346-6781.

Sincerely,

Representative Melanie A. Stansbury

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WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

Small Business Administration (SBA): The SBA recently released a [Digital Toolkit](#) to provide guidance to small employers on working with labor unions.

Department of Labor (DOL): DOL's Employment and Training Administration (ETA) runs a network of American Job Centers across the country. These centers provide a variety of career development and training services to employers, job seekers, and workers. See [here](#) for an overview of services that may benefit small businesses and find the location of your nearest American Job Center [here](#). DOL also offers resources and support to businesses interested in creating a registered apprenticeship program through its webpage, Apprenticeship.gov.

FINANCING

SBA: The SBA offers several different loan programs to support small businesses, including its [Microloan Program](#), [Community Advantage Pilot Program](#), and more. Interested borrowers can search for a lender through SBA's "[Lender Match](#)" tool. The SBA also licenses Small Business Investment Companies (SBICs) and maintains [a directory of SBICs](#) that may be helpful to small business owners seeking debt/equity investors. For potential assistance for businesses that are minority-owned, veteran-owned, women-owned, LGBTQ+-owned, or Native American-owned, see the left-hand tabs under "[Get more funding](#)."

Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR): SBIR and STTR are among the only non-loan federal financing opportunities available to small businesses. The [SBIR and STTR](#) grant programs were established to expand the role of small businesses in federal R&D. Eleven federal agencies operate [SBIR programs](#), and five federal agencies operate [STTR programs](#).

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA): The USDA administers grant and loan programs to rural entities—such as town governments, universities, and nonprofits—that can be used to assist small rural businesses. Examples include the [Rural Business Development Grant Program](#), [Rural Innovation Stronger Economy \(RISE\) Program](#), and [Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program](#). **Note:** These programs are targeted towards rural governments and not directly to individual small businesses. Contact your local USDA office using the contact information on the last page of this packet for information on entities providing USDA-funded business assistance in your area.

Economic Development Administration (EDA): EDA programs support the capacity of economic actors to address the changing conditions, circumstances, and opportunities that are unique to their region. Although the Economic Development Administration (EDA) does *not* make grants directly to businesses, businesses can receive a loan from revolving loan funds [supported by EDA](#), which are often administered by state and local agencies, such as state economic development agencies and economic development districts (EDDs). You can view the directory of RLF program participants in New Mexico [here](#).

Department of the Treasury: The Treasury's [Community Development Financial Institution \(CDFI\) Fund](#) supports organizations that provide loans to businesses, homebuyers, community developers, and investors in [distressed areas](#). **Note:** CDFI-funded loans are not offered directly to businesses but instead through participating intermediaries such as community banks, CDFIs, and state economic development agencies. Here is a link to a [list of CDFIs](#) (viewable as an Excel file under "View the list of certified CDFIs").

Housing and Urban Development (HUD): HUD's [Community Development Block Grant funding](#) can in some cases be used to assist businesses for economic development purposes.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

SBA: Businesses can receive technical assistance to support their expansion and activities through various [SBA programs](#). SBA resource partners at local [Small Business Development Centers](#) (SBDCs) provide a variety of free business consulting and low-cost training services including: business plan development, financial packaging and lending assistance, and more. The SBA’s Minority Small Business and Capital Ownership Development Program—commonly known as the “8(a) Program”—is specifically intended to support small business that are classified as “socially disadvantaged”.

The Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA): For certain minority business enterprises, the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) provides management and technical assistance through business centers located throughout the country. MBDA centers can provide one-on-one assistance with writing business plans, marketing, management, financial planning, etc. There is currently one MBDA center in [New Mexico](#).

Department of Veterans Affairs’: The Department of Veterans Affairs’ [Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization](#) provides resources and support to businesses owned by veterans and/or interested in contracting with the VA.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The resources at [USA.gov](#) may help in broadly identifying government financing programs available to finance an existing business.

National Women’s Business Council (NWBC): The [National Women's Business Council](#) is a federal advisory committee that provides recommendations to the SBA and federal administration regarding women-owned business needs across the U.S. Their reports, events, and online resources may be of interest.

Congressional Research Service Reports (CRS): The following public CRS Reports may be of interest to small business owners and federal grant seekers:

- [*Small Business Administration: A Primer on Programs and Funding*](#)
- [*How to Develop and Write a Grant Proposal*](#)
- [*Resources for Grantseekers*](#)
- [*Federal Resources for State and Local Economic Development*](#)

AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Small Business Administration (SBA): You can find the local and contact information of the SBA district office in New Mexico [here](#).

SBIR and STTR: For more information on these programs, contact technology@sba.gov or visit the [webpage](#).

The Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA): You can find contact information for the Albuquerque MBDA center [here](#).

Department of Labor (DOL): You can find the location of your nearest American Job Center [here](#).

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA): USDA Rural Development contacts in New Mexico can be found [here](#).

Economic Development Administration: Contact information for the Economic Development Representative for New Mexico is below:

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Housing and Urban Development (HUD): See contacts for local administrators of NM's Community Development Block Grant Funding [here](#).